

THE
L I F E
AND
CHARACTER
OF

Sir *William Temple*, Bar^r.

Written by a particular FRIEND.

Never before Published.



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L I F E
AND
C H A R A C T E R
O F
Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE.

SIR WILLIAM TEMPLE was descended from a younger Branch of the Family of the TEMPLES, of *Temple-hall*, in *Leicestershire*. Sir RICHARD TEMPLE, of the elder Branch, pretended, that his Ancestors came in with the Conquest, and had the Pedigree distinct from King *John's* Time, when they were possess'd of great Estates; but having taken the unfortunate side in *Richard the III's* Time, lost all but *Temple-Hall*, which was afterwards sold, and could never be recover'd, either by Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE, or his Father.

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HIS Grandfather was Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE, an eighth Son, bred up at *King's College* in *Cambridge*, designed for the Law, but he fell into the more refined and philosophical Studies of that Age; and writ on those Subjects two Treatises in very elegant *Latin*, which he dedicated to Sir *Philip Sidney*, who first prevailed with him to leave the College, and accompany him abroad, and there died in his Arms; after he had before his Death recommended him to the great Earl of *Essex*, who was then in the height of Queen *Elizabeth's* Favour, and whose Secretary he was 'till the tragical end of his Life. Sir WILLIAM not only fell with him from the prospect of so great Fortunes, but was 'pursued by *Cecil*, and at last sent over to *Ireland*, where he followed the Course of his Studies in the College, of which he was chosen Provost, and there died at the age of seventy three Years, and lies buried there.

HIS eldest Son JOHN TEMPLE was sent young abroad, and afterwards bred in the Court of King *Charles* the 1st; and by him made Master of the Rolls in *Ireland*: He married a Sister of the famous Dr. *Hammond*, and by her had four Sons and one Daughter, who, all except one Son, survived him. He lived at *Dublin* and was of the Privy Council there, and in particular Friendship and Confidence with the Earl of *Leicester*, then declared Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, when the Rebellion there in 1640, broke out; in the Transactions of which remarkable Year he was deeply engaged; and upon the changes in the King's Counsels, and Affairs, was imprisoned with three more Privy Councillors, for opposing the 'Cessation, which the Duke of *Ormond* was commanded to make with the *Irish* Rebels.

IN 1644, he was exchanged, and sent for by the Parliament in *England*, in which he sat 'till 1648, and was then turned out with those they called the Secluded Members, for joining

Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE.

joining with them in voting for the Conditions of the Peace then treated with the King in the Isle of *Wight*. During the sad Scene which followed his execrable Murder, he continued to live privately in *London*, till the happy Restauration in 1660, when he returned to the Place of Master of the Rolls, in *Ireland*, where he lived in great Plenty and Esteem, and there died in the Year 77. which was the same of his Age, and lies buried by his Father in *Dublin College*.

HIS eldest Son, *WILLIAM TEMPLE*, was born at *London*, in 1628, first sent to School at *Penshurst* in *Kent*, under the care of his Uncle *Dr. Henry Hammond*, then Minister of that Parish, and from thence, at Ten Years old, to *Mr. Leigh*, School-master of *Bishop-stratford*, to whom, he used to say, he was beholden for all he knew of *Greek*, and *Latin*: Having attained to all that was to be learned there, at fifteen he returned Home, the Disorders of that Time having hinder'd his going to the University till seventeen, when he was placed in *Emanuel College* in *Cambridge*, under *Dr. Cudworth*: At Nineteen he began his Travels into *France*, in 1648, a Time so dismal to *England*, that none but they, who were the occasion of those Troubles and Confusions in their Country, could be sorry to leave it: He chose to pass through the Isle of *Wight*, where his Majesty was then Prisoner in *Carisbrook Castle*, and met there with *Mrs. Dorothy Osborn*, Daughter to *Sir Peter Osborn*, then Governour of *Guernsey* for the King, who was going with her Brother to their Father at *St. Maloes*; he made that journey with them, and there began an Amour with that young Lady, which lasted seven Years, and then ended in a happy Marriage: He passed two Years in *France*, learned *French* perfectly, and soon after made a Tour into *Holland*, *Flanders* and *Germany*, in which he grew as perfect a Master of *Spanish*, and after his return in 1654, he married *Mrs. Osborn*; and during the Usurpation, passed

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his Time privately with his Father, two Brothers and a Sister, then in *Ireland*, all happy in that perfect Kindness and Agreement, which has been so often taken notice of in their Family.

THE five Years he lived there were spent chiefly in his Closet, in improving himself in History and Philosophy; and in that time he had five Children, which he buried there. He refused all Sollicitations of entering into any Employment under the Usurper, and at the happy Restoration in 1660, was chosen Member of the Convention in *Ireland*; and whilst every body was vying, who should make most court to the King, a Pole Bill was read. Tho' he, and many others thought it to the height of what the Nation could bear, the Lords Justices, whilst it was debating, sent a Message to the House, to desire it might be doubled; which, amongst a great many that disliked it, Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE only opposed, though the rest afterwards joined with him: The Lords Justices that heard whence the difficulty came, sent some to reason it with him; his answer was, that he had nothing to say to it out of the House; where they chose a Time to pass it in his absence. This made a great deal of talk, and brought him into more Conversation and Business, than he had been used to in that Country.

AFTER this, a Parliament was called there, and he chosen, with his Father, for the County of *Castlow*, and often turned the House in their warmest Debates, by never entering into any of their Parties and Factions, not minding whom he anger'd, or pleased. In 1662, he was chosen one of the Commissioners, to be sent from that Parliament to the King, and then waited on the new Lord Lieutenant the Duke of *Ormond*: Soon after he returned into *Ireland*, but with the Resolution of quitting that Kingdom, and removing his Family into *England*: At his return he began

to observe a very different Countenance in the Duke of Ormond, from what he had found before, and soon grew to have so much Share in his Kindness and Esteem, that the Duke complained to him, that he was the only Man in Ireland, that had never asked him any thing; and when he told him his design of carrying his Family into England, said, he should at least give him leave to write in his favour to the two Great Ministers, the Lord Chancellor, and Earl of Arlington; and did it so much to his advantage, that his Recommendation gave Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE the first entrance into their good Graces, and the good Opinion of the King; which he made no other use of, than to tell Lord Arlington, then Secretary of State, that if his Majesty had any Employment abroad, which he thought such a Man as he capable of serving him in, he should be very happy in it, but desired, it might not carry him into the Northern Climates, which he had a great aversion to: Lord Arlington said, he was sorry for it, because there was at that time no other undisposed of, but that of going Envoy to Sweden.

IN 1665, about the Beginning of the first Dutch War, Lord Arlington sent a Messenger to him to come immediately to his House; which he did, and found his Business was to tell him, the King had occasion to send one abroad upon an Affair of the greatest Trust and Importance, and that he had resolved to make him the first offer of it, but that he must know presently whether he would accept of it, or no, without telling him what it was, and be content to go in three or four Days, without saying more of it to any of his Friends: After having considered a little, he told my Lord, he took him to be his Friend, and since he must consult with no body else, would be advised by him: He said, his advice was, that he should not refuse it, whether he liked it or no, as an entrance into his Majesty's Service, and the way to some-

something he might like better; and then told him, it was to go to the Bishop of *Munster*, and conclude a Treaty between the King and him, by which, the Bishop should be obliged, upon receiving a certain Sum of Money, to enter immediately with his Majesty into the War with *Holland*. In *July* he began his Journey to *Coefvelt*, and not long after the Secret came out, that he had in very few Days concluded and signed the Treaty there, in which, his perfect Knowledge in *Latin*, which he had retained, was of no little advantage to him, the Bishop conversing in no other Language. After signing the Treaty, he went to *Brussels*, saw the first Payment made, and received the News that the Bishop was in the Field, by which, this Negotiation begun first to be discover'd; but nobody suspected the Part he had in it, who continued privately at *Brussels*, till it was whisper'd to the Marquis *Castel Rodrigo* their Governour, that he came upon some particular Errand, (which he was then at liberty to own) who thereupon sent to desire his acquaintance, and that he might see him in private, to which he easily consented. Soon after a Commission was sent him to be Resident at *Brussels*, (which he had wish'd for in his Travels thither so many Years before) with a Patent for a Baronet.

IN *April*, 1666, Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE sent for his Family into *Flanders*, but before their arrival was posted again into *Munster*, to prevent the Bishop's making Peace with the *Dutch*, which he threatned to do, upon the ill Payments from *England*, and signed it at *Cleve* the very Night Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE came to *Munster*; who, finding nothing was to be done, presently returned to *Brussels*, where he pass'd one Year with great Pleasure and Satisfaction: Before the end of it the Peace with the *Dutch* was concluded at *Breda*; and the Spring after, in 1667, a new War broke out between *France* and *Spain*, which began by the *French* seizing several Towns in *Flanders*,
before

before they had Time or Warning enough to make any resistance, by which they fell so fast into their Hands that *Brussels* was alarmed at their near Approaches, and Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE, knowing that they had not sufficient Troops to defend the Town, sent his Lady and Family into *England*, but stayed there with his Sister 'till *Christmas* following, when the King sent for him to come over privately, and with orders to pass through *Holland*, and make Monsieur *De Wit* a visit in the way, which produced the great Negotiation of the Triple Alliance. Upon which, in five Days after his arrival at Court, he was dispatched back to the *Hague*, and in as many he concluded that famous Treaty between *England*, *Sweden* and *Holland*, so surprising at that time, and so much applauded; and with this began a Trust and Confidence between him and Monsieur *De Wit*, from the experience, as well as assurance of Truth and Fairness in their Dealings on both sides, which helped much to the ease and dispatch of those they were engaged in. After the Ratifications were over, he had orders to return to *Brussels*, and endeavour to prevail with the *Spaniards* to consent to a Peace with *France*, which was treated the next Summer in 1668, at *Aix le Chappelle*, whither he was sent Ambassador Extraordinary and Mediator, and with his Colleague Sir *Leonel Jenkins*, after many Difficulties and Delays, at last brought it to a happy Conclusion.

SOON after he was sent Ambassador Extraordinary to the States General, with Instructions to confirm the Triple Alliance, and solicit the Emperor and *German* Princes by their Ministers, to enter into it; and being the first *English* Ambassador, that had been there since King *James's* Time, he was received and distinguished by all Marks of Regard and Esteem they could express for his Character and Person; and by the good opinion he had gain'd, was able to bring the States into such Measures, as M. *De Wit* said,

said, he was sure, was not in the Power of any other Man to do : He lived in confidence with that great Minister, by order from the King, and in constant and familiar Conversation with the Prince of *Orange*, then eighteen Years old, than which no Man could have a more difficult Part to act ; and he compassed the chief Design of his Embassy, in engaging the Emperor and *Spain* in the Measures that were then desired : But in this Time happened Madam's Journey into *England*, so well known to have changed them all ; and tho' he had observed a Disposition in the Court before, to complain of the *Dutch* upon small occasions very unlike what he left it in, yet suspected nothing, 'till Lord *Arlington* in *September*, 1669, hurried him over, by telling him, as soon as he received his Letter, he should put his Foot into the Stirrup. When he came to him, whom he always saw the first, and thought he had never more reason to make haste, he found he had not one Word to say to him ; and after making him wait a great while, only asked him several indifferent Questions about his Journey, and he was received next Day as coldly by the King. The Secret soon came out, and Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE was pressed to return to the *Hague*, and make way for a War with *Holland*, with which, less than two Years before, he had been so much applauded, for having made so strict an Alliance ; but he excused himself from having any Share in it, which so much provoked the Lord Treasurer *Clifford*, that he refused to pay him an arrear of two thousand Pounds, due from his Embassy. All this passed without Unkindness from the King ; but my Lord *Arlington's* Usage, so unlike the Friendship he had professed, was resented by Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE.

HE now retired to a House he had purchased at *Shene*, near *Richmond* ; and in this Interval of his Leisure and Retreat, writ his Observations on the United Provinces, and one Part of his Miscellanies.

ABOUT

ABOUT the End of the Summer 1673, the King growing weary of the second *Dutch War*, which was liked by few at Court, and none any where else, sent for Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE, who was ever wanted upon that Occasion, to go into *Holland* and conclude the Peace; towards which, Overtures began now to be made on both sides; but Powers having been sent at this time from thence to the Marquis *de Tresno* the *Spanish* Ambassador at *London*, Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE was ordered to treat it with him, and in three Days it was concluded, and the Point of the Flag carried, that had been so long contested. Upon this Lord *Arlington* offered him the Embassy into *Spain*, which, for want of his Father's Consent, who was then old and infirm, he refused; and soon after, the Place of Secretary of State, for want of six thousand Pounds, which he was to lay down for it, and could not spare.

IN *June*, 1674, he was again sent Ambassador into *Holland*, with offer of the King's Mediation between *France* and the Confederates, then at War, which was not long after accepted; and Lord *Berkeley*, Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE, and Sir *Leonel Jenkins* were declared Ambassadors and Mediators, and *Nimeguen* (which he had proposed) was consented to at last by all Parties to be the Place of Treaty. During his stay at the *Hague*, the Prince of *Orange*, who was fond of speaking *English*, and of their plain way of eating, constantly dined and supped once or twice a Week at his House, who thereby grew so much into the Prince's Esteem and Confidence, as gave him so great a Part in that considerable Affair of his Marriage with Lady *Mary*, so well known in the World, and so particularly related in his Memoirs: One Advantage he made of it from an Accident, that then happened, may be worth mentioning, because he reckoned it himself amongst the good fortunes of his Life. There were five *English* Men taken and brought

to the *Hague*, whilst he was there, and in the Prince's Absence, who were immediately tried and condemn'd by a Council of War, for deserting their Colours: Some of his Servants had the Curiosity to visit their unfortunate Countrymen, and came home with a deplorable Story, that by what they had heard, it seem'd to be a Mistake; and that they were all like to die innocent; but, however, that 'twas without Remedy, that their Graves were digging, and they were to be shot next Morning. Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE left nothing unattempted to prevent their sudden Execution, and sent to the Officers to threaten them, that he would complain first to the Prince, and then to the King, who, he was sure, would demand Reparation, if so many of his Subjects suffer'd unjustly: But nothing would move them, 'till he made it his last Request to reprieve them one Day, in which the Prince happen'd to come within Reach of returning an Answer to a Message he sent; upon which they were releas'd. The first thing they did was to go and see their Graves, and the next, to come and thank Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE upon their Knees.

IN *July* 1696, he removed his Family to *Nimeguen*, where he pass'd that Year without making any Progress in the Treaty, that from several Accidents was then at a Stand; and a Year after, his Son was sent over with Letters from my Lord Treasurer to order him to return and succeed Mr. *Coventry* in his Place of Secretary of State, which he made some Difficulties of resigning, unless he had Leave to name his Successor; which the King refused, and fell into an ill Humour upon it. Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE, who was not fond of the Change, desired his Majesty to let it alone 'till all Parties were agreed, and the Treaty he was then engag'd in, concluded, to which he did not return that Year. About this Time, the Prince of *Orange*, having the King's Leave to come over, soon after married Lady *Mary*; and from this happen'd another occasion of Unkindness,

Unkindness, between Lord *Arlington*, and Him. My Lord Treasurer, who was related to Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE's Lady, and he being only in the Secret of all that Affair, upon which Lord *Arlington* said a very good Thing, tho' not in very good Humour, that some Things were so ill in themselves, that the Manner of doing them could not mend them, and others so good, that the Manner they were done in, could not spoil them; and that the Prince of *Orange's* Match was of the last Sort. Lord *Arlington's* Coldness to Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE began from his early Acquaintance with the Lord Treasurer (they having travell'd young together) and his Relation to him by Marriage; and he being now chief Minister in Lord *Arlington's* Room, and they Two living in the last Degree of ill Intelligence with one another, it was impossible to keep the Favour of both these great Men, which was the true Reason of Lord *Arlington's* falling out with him, with whom, from Circumstances better forgot than repeated, he could not afterwards live well. After the Prince and Princess were gone into *Holland*, the Inclination at Court always leaning towards *France*, the King would have engaged Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE in some Negotiations with that Crown, so contrary to those he had been before concern'd in, and which he was so ill satisfy'd with, that he offer'd to give up his Pretensions to the Secretary's Place, which he desired my Lord Treasurer to acquaint His Majesty with, and so went to *Shene* with the hopes of being taken at his Word, growing very weary, as Monsieur *de Wit* used to express it, of the perpetual Fluctuation he had observed in all our Counsels since Queen *Elizabeth's* Reign. But upon Discovery of the *French* Designs not to evacuate the *Spanish* Towns agreed on by the Treaty to be deliver'd up, the King commanded him to go upon a Third Embassy to the States, with whom he concluded a Treaty, by which *England* was engaged upon the Refusal of the *French* to evacuate the Towns in Forty Days, to declare immediate

War with *France*: But before half that Time was run out, one *de Cros* was sent from our Court into *Holland*, upon an Errand, that damp'd all the good Humour that Treaty had given them there, and the Life it had put into all their Affairs; and such sudden and surprizing Changes in our own, which Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE had seen too often to be astonish'd at, gave him a Dislike to all Publick Employments.

IN 1679, he went back to *Nimeguen*, where the *French* delay'd signing the Treaty to the last Hour, which after he had concluded, he returned to the *Hague*, from whence he was soon sent for to enter upon the Secretary's Place, which Mr. *Corventry* was at last resolv'd to part with, and my Lord *Sunderland*, who was newly come into the other, press'd him with so much Earnestness to accept of. He very unwillingly obey'd his Majesty's Commands to come over, having long had at heart a Visit he had promised to make the Great Duke, as soon as his Embassy was ended; having begun a particular Acquaintance with him in *England*, and kept up a Correspondence ever since. Besides, having so ill succeeded in the Designs (which no Man ever more steadily pursued in the Course of his Employments) of doing his Country the best Service, and advancing its Honour and Greatness to the Height he thought it capable of being rais'd to, he resolv'd to ask leave of the King to retire; and, indeed, no body could have engaged in Publick Affairs with a worse Prospect than there was at this Time, or in a more unpleasant Scene; the *Popish* Plot being newly broke out, which the King believ'd nothing of, the People frighted, and the Parliament violent in the Prosecution of it. In this melancholy Posture of Affairs, Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE came to Court, as all his Friends hoped, with the Design of entring upon the Secretary's Place, which he made a Difficulty of, because he was not in the House of Commons, and thought the Publick Business would

would suffer thereby in so critical a Time; in which the Contests run so high between the two Parties, that the King thought fit to send the Duke into *Flanders*, and the Parliament to put my Lord Treasurer in the Tower. After this His Majesty again press'd Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE to be Secretary of State, using this Argument; that he had now nobody to consult with at a Time that he wanted the best Advice; that which Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE gave him was, to trust his Affairs no more in any one hand, but chuse so many Men as he pleased for his Privy Council, whom he should wholly trust and advise with, which in few Days the King consented to, and the choice of the Persons was wholly concerted between his Majesty and Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE, who had leave next Day to acquaint the Lord Chancellor, Lord *Sunderland* and Lord *Essex* with it; who all approv'd of the Resolution, but thought it the greatest Point that ever was gained by any Minister; and three Days after the old Council was dissolved, this new one was established, of which Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE was one.

IN 1680, the Councils began again to be changed, upon the King's having been very ill the End of the Summer; and the Duke's returning privately to Court, and his Treatment from some of those Persons, whom, from the King's Dislike, if not Aversion to, he found so difficult to bring into his Favour and Business, gave him a fresh distaste to Court and Councils, whither he seldom went; the Particulars of which were some Years ago published in the Third Part of the Memoirs, that were only written (as he expressed it in the Original, now in the hands of one of his Family) for the private Satisfaction of his Friends.

SOON after this: the King sent for Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE again, and propos'd going his Ambassador
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into *Spain*, and give credit to an Alliance pretended to be made with that Crown against the meeting of the Parliament, upon which the *French* Ambassadors, much dissatisfied, said, it was enough to give Vigour to the *Spanish* Monarchy. When his Equipage was almost ready, and Part of the Money for it paid, the King changed his mind, and told him, he would have him defer his Journey 'till the End of the Sessions of Parliament, of which he was chosen a Member for the University of *Cambridge*, and in which the Factions run so high, that he saw it impossible to bring them to any Temper. The Duke was sent into *Scotland*; that would not satisfy them, nor any thing but a Bill of Exclusion, against which he always declared himself, being a Legal Man, and said, his Endeavours should ever be to unite the Royal Family, but that he would never enter into any Councils to divide them. This famous Bill after long Contests was thrown out, and the Parliament dissolved; and 'twas upon his Majesty's taking this Resolution without the Advice of his Privy Council, contrary to what he had promised, that Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE spoke so boldly there, and was so ill used for taking that liberty, by some of those Friends, who had been most earnest in promoting the last Change. Upon this he grew quite tired with Pulick Business, refused the Offer he had of serving again for the University in the next Parliament, that was soon after called and met at *Oxford*, and was uneasy with the Name of a Privy Councillor, which he soon got rid of; and the Duke being returned, and all the Councils changed, Lord *Sunderland's*, *Essex's* and Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE's Names, were by the King's Order all struck out of the Council Book together; upon which he took occasion to send the King word, that he would live the rest of his Life as good a Subject as any in his Kingdoms, but never more meddle with Publick Affairs: The King assured him that he was not at all angry; and though he lived from

from that time at *Shene* till 1685, without ever seeing the Town or Court, and had the Priviledge of returning no Visits that were made him from thence by Persons of the best Quality and Fortune, who during those five Years frequented his House and Table; yet he never failed of waiting on his Majesty, whenever he came into the Neighbourhood, and nobody was better received by his own Master whilst he lived, and by King *James* afterwards, who often turned the whole Conversation to him, as soon as he enter'd the Room at *Richmond*.

ABOUT this time his only Son Mr. TEMPLE (and the only Child he had now left, having a few Years before lost his favourite Daughter DIANA of the Small Pox at fourteen Years of Age) was married in *France* to Mademoiselle *Rambouillet*, a rich Heiress, and only Daughter of Monsieur *Dupleffis*, a French Protestant of a very good Family, a young Lady very eminent then for her rare Accomplishments of Body and Mind, and more so since for her great Piety and Charity, with whom he lived near four Years very happily, and at his Death (that was a cruel Blow to his Father, in depriving him of such an only Heir of his Parts and Virtues, as well as his Fortune) he left only two Daughters, that are now living, the eldest of which is married to Mr. JOHN TEMPLE, younger Son to Sir JOHN TEMPLE, who was Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE's second Brother, and esteemed one of the best Lawyers in *Ireland*, and had been Solicitor and Attorney General there many Years; to whom Archbishop *Sheldon* made a singular Compliment, that he had the Curse of the Gospel, because all Men spoke well of him: Mr. TEMPLE's youngest Daughter is married to Mr. *Nicholas Baron* of *Shrubland* in the County of *Suffolk*.

Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE continued a Year at *Shene*, and having purchased a small Seat called *Moor Park*, near

Earnham in *Surry*, which he took a great fancy to for its Solitude and Retirement, and the healthy and pleasant Situation; and being much afflicted with the Gout and broken with Age and Infirmities, he resolved to pass the remainder of his Life there, and in *November*, 1686, in his Way thither, waited on King *James*, then at *Windsor*, and begged his Favour and Protection to one that would always live a good Subject, but whatever happen'd, never enter again upon any publick Employment, and desired his Majesty never to give credit to whatever he might hear to the contrary: The King, who used to say, Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE's Character was always to be believed, promised him what he desired, made him some Reproaches for not coming into his Service, which he said was his own Fault, and kept his word as faithfully to Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE, as he did to his Majesty during the surprizing Turn of Affairs, that soon after followed by the Prince of *Orange's* coming over, which, whatever People may suspect, was so great a Secret to him, that there is nothing surer, than that he was not only wholly unacquainted with it, but one of the last Men in *England* that believed it.

At the Time of this happy Revolution in 1688, *Moat Park* growing unsafe by lying in the Way of both Armies, he went back to the House he had given up to his Son at *Shene*, who had been very uneasy at being denied the leave he had so impatiently begged of his Father, to go and meet the Prince of *Orange* at his Landing, which in telling his Principles of never engaging in any thing that seemed to divide the Royal Family, I have already given the best and truest Reason of. After King *James's* Abdication, and the Prince's Arrival at *Windsor*, Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE went to wait upon his Highness and carried his Son; the Prince pressed him to enter into his Service, and to be Secretary of State, said, 'twas in Kindness to him, that he had not been acquainted with his Design, came to him

two or three times at *Shene*, and several of his Friends made him very uneasy, in laying to his Heart how much the Prince, (who was his Friend) his Country and his Religion, must suffer by his obstinate Refusal to engage in their Defence, that must give the World an ill Opinion of this great Undertaking, and make them mistrust some ill Design at the Bottom, which a Man of his Truth and Honour did not care to be concern'd in: And tho' he continued unshaken in his Resolutions, and very firm in keeping the Promise he had made King *James*, that was mentioned before, yet he was very sensible of the Trouble and Uneasiness the Prince and all his Friends expressed at it, and was the gladder to return to his Retirement at *Moor Park*, about the End of the Year 1689, to be out of the way of any more Sollicitations of that Kind.

FROM that Time he turned himself wholly to the Cares and Amusements of a Country Life, *few* little Company in a Place so desolate, had the honour of being often consulted by King *William* in some of his secret and important Affairs, and of a Visit from him in his Way from *Winchester*, and used to wait upon his Majesty at *Richmond* and *Windsor*, where he was always very graciously received with that Easiness and Familiarity, and particular Confidence, that had began in *Holland* so many Years before.

IN 1694, he had the misfortune to lose his Lady, who was a very extraordinary Woman, as well as a good Wife, of whom nothing more need be said to her advantage, than that she was not only much esteemed by her own Friends and Acquaintance, some of whom were Persons of the greatest Figure, but valued and distinguished by such good Judges of true Merit as King *William* and Queen *Mary*, with whom she had the honour to keep a constant Correspondence, being justly admired for her fine Style
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and turn of Wit in writing Letters, and whom she outlived about a Month; the deep Affliction for her Majesty's most deplorable Death having hasten'd her own. Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE was then past sixty, at which Age he practis'd what he had so often declar'd to be his Opinion, that an old Man ought then to conclude himself no longer of use in the World, but to himself and his Friends. He lived four Years after extremely afflicted with the Gout, which at last wore out his Life; and with the help of Age and a natural Decay of Strength and Spirits, ended it in *January*, 1698, in his seventieth Year. He was buried privately in *Westminster Abbey*, according to his directions in his Will, that were in these Words

" I do order my Body to be interr'd in the West-Isle
" of *Westminster Abbey*, near those two dear Pledges my
" Wife and my Daughter *DIANA*, that lye there already,
" and that after mine and my Sister *GIFFARD's* Decease
" a large Stone of black Marble may be set up against
" the Wall with this Inscription:

" *Sibi suisque charissimis,*

" *DIANA TEMPLE dilectissima Filia,*

" *DOROTHEA OSBORN conjunctissima Conjugis,*

" *Et MARTHE GIFFARD optime Sorori*

" *Hoc quaecumque Monumentum*

" *Poni curavit*

" *GULIELMUS TEMPLE, Baronettus.*

THIS Marble Monument was according to his order set up after the Lady *GIFFARD's* Death in 1722, who resembled him in his Genius, as well as in his Person, and left behind her the Character of one of the best and most constant Friends in the World.

Correspondence, being justly admired for her fine style and a constant

A short CHARACTER of Him.

I THINK nothing harder than to write any body's Character, and that of a Friend is still more difficult: If one tells truth, it is thought Partiality, and if one does not, it is a real piece of Injustice. I will try (by saying little) to avoid both Imputations.

Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE's Person is best known by his Pictures and Prints: He was rather tall than low; his Shape, when young, very exact; his Hair a dark brown, and curled naturally, and whilst that was esteemed a Beauty no body had it in greater Perfection; his Eyes grey, but lively; and his Body lean, but extream active, so that none acquitted themselves better at all sorts of Exercise.

HE had an extraordinary Spirit and Life in his Humour, with so agreeable Turns of Wit and Fancy in his Conversation, that no body was welcomer in all sorts of Company, and some have observed, that he never had a mind to make any body kind to him without compassing his Design.

HE was an exact Observer of Truth, thinking none that had fail'd once ought ever to be trusted again; of nice points of Honour; of great Humanity and Good-nature, taking pleasure in making others easy and happy; his Passions naturally warm and quick, but temper'd by Reason and Thought; his Humour gay, but very unequal from cruel Fits of Spleen and Melancholy, being subject to great Damps from sudden Changes of Weather, but chiefly from the Crosses and surprizing Turns in his Business, and Disappointments he met with so often in his Endeavours to contribute to the Honour and Service of his Country, which he thought himself two or three Times so near

Compassing, that he could not think with Patience of what had hinder'd it, or of those that he thought had been the occasion of his Disappointments.

HE never seem'd busy in his greatest Employments, was a great Lover of Liberty, and therefore hated the Servitude of Courts, said he could never serve for Wages, nor be busy (as one is so often there) to no purpose; and never was willing to enter upon any Employment but that of a Publick Minister.

HE had been a passionate Lover, was a kind Husband, a fond and indulgent Father, a good Master, and the best Friend in the World; and knowing himself to be so, was impatient of the least Suspicion or Jealousy from those he loved. He was ever kind to the Memory of those he had once liked and esteemed; wounded to the Heart by Grief, upon the many Losses of his Children and Friends, 'till recovered by Reason and Philosophy, and that perfect Resignation to Almighty God, which he thought so absolute a Part of our Duty, upon those sad Occasions, often saying, His holy Name be praised: His Will be done.

HE was not without strong Aversions so as to be uneasy at the first Sight of some he disliked, and impatient of their Conversation; apt to be warm in Disputes and Expostulations, which made him hate the one, and avoid the other, which he used to say, might sometimes do well between Lovers, but never between Friends; He turn'd his Conversation to what was more easy and pleasant, especially at Table, where he said ill Humour ought never to come, and his agreeable Talk at it, if it had been set down, would have been very entertaining to the Reader, as well as to so many that had heard it. He had a very familiar way of conversing with all Sorts of People, from the greatest Princes to the meanest Servants, and even Children, whose imperfect Language, and natural and innocent Talk he was fond of,
and

and made Entertainment out of every thing that could afford it : When that, he liked best, fail'd, the next served Turn.

HE lived healthful 'till Forty Two, then begun to be troubled with Rheums upon his Teeth and Eyes, which he attributed to the Air of *Holland*, and which ended, when he was Forty Seven, in the Gout, upon which he grew very melancholy, being then Ambassador at the *Hague* ; he said, a Man was never good for any thing after it ; and though he continued in Business near Three Years longer, 'twas always with Design of winding himself out as fast as he could ; and making good his own Rules, that no body should make Love after Forty, nor be in Business after Fifty : And though from this Time he had frequent Returns of ill Health, he never cared to consult Physicians ; saying, He hoped to die without them, and trusted wholly to the Care and Advice of his Friends, which he often express'd himself so happy in, as to want nothing, but Health ; which, since Riches could not help him to, he despised them.

HE was born to a moderate Estate, and did not much encrease it during his Employments, which he tells his Son, in his Letter to him before the second Part of his Memoirs, *It is fit should contribute something to his Entertainment, since they had done so little to his Fortunes, upon which he could make him no Excuse, since it was so often in his Power, that it was never in his Thoughts, which were ever turned upon how much less he wanted, rather than how much more.* (And in a fine Strain of Philosophy he concludes,) *If yours have the same Turn, you will be but too rich ; if the contrary, you will be ever poor.* King *Charles II.* gave him the reversion of the Master of the Rolls Place in *Ireland*, after his Father, who kept it during his life, and the Presents made him in his several Embassies, were chiefly laid out in Building and Planting,

Planting, and in purchasing old Statues, and Pictures, that still remain in his Family, which were his only Expence, or Extravagance, but not too great for his Income. Those that knew him little, thought him rich, to whom he used to answer pleasantly, that he wanted nothing, but an Estate: And yet no Body was more generous to his Friends, or more charitable to the Poor, in giving often to true Objects of Charity, a Hundred Pounds at a Time, and sometimes Three Hundred.

His Religion was that of the Church of *England*, in which he was born and bred; and how loose soever *Bishop Burnet*, in his History of his own Time, represents his Principles (from that Common-Place of Hear-say, that runs thro' the whole, for he was not acquainted with Sir *WILLIAM*) yet there is no Ground for such uncharitable Reflections given in his Writings, in which his excellent Letter to the Countess of *Essex* is a convincing Proof both of his Piety and Eloquence, and to that Picture drawn by himself in his Works, I refer those that care either to know, or to imitate him.

